

## Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-11 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

----- 015259

R 161206Z JAN 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6890

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1030

E.O. 11652: AGDS DECLASSIFY FEB. 20, 1976

TAGS: SREF, TH, LA

SUBJ: RTG PLANS TO DEPORT LAO REFUGEES

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK FROM UDORN JAN 16 RPTD  
FOR YOUR INFO:

UDORN 193

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, TH, LA

SUBJECT: RTG PLANS TO DEPORT LAO REFUGEES

REF: UDORN 125

1. JAN 14 NONG KHAI IMMIGRATION CHIEF CAPTAIN CHERD PUTNOI  
TOLD CONSULATE POLITICAL ASSISTANT THAT MOI IN BANGKOK HAS  
DIRECTED NONG KHAI OFFICIALS NOT TO ACCEPT ANY MORE REFUGEES  
INTO CAMPS IN NONG KHAI. INSTEAD, LAO WHO COME ACROSS WILL  
BE ARRESTED, FINED AND EVENTUALLY DEPORTED. RUMORS OF  
DEPORTATION HAVE CIRCULATED IN NONG KHAI FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.  
ACCORDING CHERD IN ADDITION TO 2 DEPORTATIONS REPORTED  
REFTEL, TWO WERE DEPORTED JAN 12 AND THREE MORE ON JAN 13  
FOR A TOTAL OF SEVEN DEPORTATIONS SO FAR.

2. CHERD SAID OVER 100 REFUGEES ARE IN JAIL IN NONG KHAI,  
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AND OTHERS WHO WERE ARRESTED ARE OUT ON BAIL. AFTER

ARREST, INVESTIGATIONS ARE CONDUCTED BY ISOC IN NONG KHAI AND OTHER CONCERNED THAI AGENCIES. INVESTIGATIONS IS NOT TO CLEAR REFUGEES FOR ENTRY TO CAMPS BUT TO DEVELOP INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE OF USE O RTG. IF INVESTIGATION TURNS UP NOTHING OF INTEREST, REFUGEE WILL THEN BE DEPORTED.

3. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO CHECK WITH MOI IN BANGKOK TO DETERMINE IF, AS CHERD SAYS, THIS IS NATIONAL POLICY AND NOT LOCAL INITIATIVE. FROM LOCAL THAI STANDPOINT THREAT OF DEPORTATITN MAY SERVE AS DETERRENT TO POTENTIAL REFUGEES, HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO GET REPORTS OF 40 - 50 LAO PER DAY CROSSING RIVER WITH NO INTENTION OF RETURNING. BECAUSE OF EW POLICY, THEY NO LONGER REPORT TO CAMP OR IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AND IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO KNOW HOW MANY REFUGEES ARE IN NONG KHAI.

4. WE WOULD GUESS THAT MOST OF THE REFUGEES WHO COULD FACE DEPORTATION WOULD NOT QUALIFY FOR PAROLE TO U.S., HOWEVER, SOME MAY. HAMILTON MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, EXPULSION, POLICIES  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** SREF, TH, LA  
**To:** STATE  
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